



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CITY OF ROCKFORD GIVES “ALL CLEAR” ENDING REQUEST TO KEEP WATER RUNNING

ROCKFORD – April 8, 2014 – The City of Rockford announced today that it is safe for residents to stop running their water to keep pipes from freezing. The City encouraged residents to run their water to keep pipes from freezing after a prolonged cold spell in late January that eventually froze over 240 water service lines. The colder than normal temperatures this winter caused the frost line in Northern Illinois to be well below the normal depth of three feet. According to Public Works Director Timothy Hanson, “Our field crews are indicating that the frost is out of the ground.”

The City tracked the location of frozen water services and determined that about 70% of the frozen services were occurring in two areas of the City. Telephone messages were sent to residents in these areas on February 5 and then again on February 10. The message encouraged residents to run their water to reduce the risk of having their water service line freeze. Water Superintendent Tim Holdeman said that “Having residents run their water saved the City many thousands of dollars in repairs.”

The City will issue a credit to residents that ran their water over the winter to keep their pipes from freezing. The credit will be applied to their water bill. Residents must call the City at 815 987-5700 to initiate the process for receiving a credit. Water Superintendent Holdeman explained, “Our monthly water meter records will allow us to determine how much water a customer used and if that amount is above normal. A credit will be given for water usage that is above normal.”

Public Works Director Hanson said that work has begun on restoring the landscaping and replacing the sidewalk at those locations where water repairs were made last winter. He said that “It will take several months to repair all the damage that was done over the winter.”

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